IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please replace the second full paragraph of specification page 14 with the following replacement paragraph:

— Fig. 3 is a highly schematic block diagram of the pattern matching engine 260 of switch 200 (S1) of Fig. 2. The pattern matching engine 260 preferably includes a decoder circuit 302 for decoding and executing message-related instructions, and a regular expression storage device 324 having a content-addressable memory (CAM) 304 that can be programmed, as described below, to store at least the regular expression patterns used in searching network messages. The pattern matching engine 260 further includes a message buffer 306 for storing a network message to be evaluated, and a barrel shifter 308 that is connected to the message buffer 306 and operatively controlled by the decoder circuit 302 as illustrated by control arrow 312. The barrel shifter 308 is configured to reveal a selected segment or portion of the message stored in buffer 306 as directed by the decoder circuit 302. Decoder circuit 302 essentially "slides" the barrel shifter 306 along the message buffer 306 as illustrated by double arrow 313 so as to reveal the selected window. The barrel shifter 308 is further coupled to the CAM 304 so as to load the retrieved message portion into a message space 310 of a CAM input 314 that, in turn, is inputted to the CAM 304 as indicated by arrow 316. The CAM input 314 further includes a tag space 318 that is loaded with a tag value~~valve~~ as described below by the decoder circuit 302. —